

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03

(ISO)W

----- 115844

R 150710Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5788

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0333

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, CH, CZ, US

SUBJ: CHOU EN LAI'S DEATH COMMEMORATED IN KABUL

REF: STATE 05740

1. OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA)
REACTION TO DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI WAS MARKED BY
CONSIDERABLE GRAVITY, RESPECT AND PUBLICITY.
PRESIDENT DAOUD SENT TELEGRAM TO CHAIRMAN MAO
EXPRESSING "PROFOUND SORROW" AT LOSS OF "ONE
OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL FIGURES".
AND ALL STATE FLAGS WERE LOWERED TO HALF-MAST
FOR TWO DAYS.

2. SPECIAL CONDOLENCE BOOK WAS OPENED AT CHINESE
EMBASSY ON JANUARY 14 FOR SIGNATURES. US EMBASSY
DID NOT RECEIVE CIRCULAR NOTE WHICH SERVED AS
INVITATION TO SIGN BOOK AND WE DID
NOT THEREFORE SEND REPRESENTATIVE AS INSTRUCTED
REFTEL. (COMMENT: GOA PROTOCOL OFFICER AT OUR
REQUEST ASKED CHINESE SPECIFICALLY WHETHER CIR-
CULAR NOTE HAD BEEN SENT TO US. CHINESE EMBOFF
REPLIED THAT NOTE WENT ONLY TO EMBASSIES OF
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THOSE NATIONS WITH WHICH PRC HAS DIPLOMATIC

RELATIONS). AMBASSADOR WILL SEEK APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY PERSONAL CONDOLENCES AT LATER DATE PER REFTEL.

3. INTERESTING SIDELIGHT TO ABOVE WAS HANDLING OF AFFAIR BY CZECH AMBASSADOR SUCHANEK, DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS. SUCHANEK MADE NO EFFORT TO BE HELPFUL TO HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES IN KEEPING TRACK OF CEREMONIAL ARRANGEMENTS. WHEN EMBOFF INQUIRED WHAT INFORMATION DEAN OF CORPS MIGHT HAVE ON CHOU COMMEMORATION, AMBASSADOR SUCHANEK'S DEPUTY SIAD MESSAGE ON CONDOLENCE BOOK HAD BEEN PUBLISHED IN "KABUL TIMES", (KABUL'S ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY) IMPLYING WE COULD NOT POSSIBLY HAVE MISSED IT. WHETHER SUCHANEK'S FAILURE TO CONTACT COLLEAGUES WAS OVERSIGHT ("HE'S NOT AN ACTIVE MAN,") ACCORDING TO AFGHAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL OR DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO IGNORE AN EVENT WHICH IS NO GREAT CAUSE FOR MOURNING FOR HIS NATION REMAINS UNCLEAR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, DEATHS, INVITATIONS, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KABUL00333
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760015-1122
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760155/aaaabwke.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 5740
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHOU EN LAI'S DEATH COMMEMORATED IN KABUL
TAGS: PFOR, AF, CH, CZ, US, (CHOU EN-LAI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006